

Mission & Vision Statement For First Steps Early Intervention System

Mission

The ICC mission is to advise and assist the lead agency to assure that Indiana families with infants and toddlers experiencing developmental delays or disabilities have access to early intervention services close to home and in their community when they need them. This is accomplished through the implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated statewide system of System Points of Entry and Local Planning & Coordinating Councils providing early intervention services called First Steps.

Vision

Our goal is to serve infants and toddlers with special developmental needs or with a diagnosis putting them at a high probability of having special developmental needs by providing a family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, neighborhood-based system of services for them and their families. To this end, we:

- ▶ Involve families in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the statewide early intervention service system.
 - ▶ Work with families to give children "peer-bound" experience. Peer-bound children are happy, have friends, go to school, and are active and accepted members of their community.
 - ▶ Make services accessible and widely dispersed throughout the community.
 - ▶ Offer choices to families that are typical of the choices available to all families of young children in their everyday routines, settings, and activities.
 - ▶ Offer services that are culturally sensitive and tailored to individual needs of the child as well as family priorities.
 - ▶ Offer services that exemplify best practices in early intervention and remain accountable for the quality of these services by evaluating them in terms of process and outcome.
 - ▶ Respect families by acknowledging that they are the primary constant in the child's life and by helping them to make choices as well as supporting them as they implement those choices.
 - ▶ Promote lifespan empowerment by enabling parents and caregivers to effectively advocate for their children while in First Steps and beyond in order to maximize potential.
 - ▶ Creatively use existing resources and seek additional resources to maximize service options for families and to fairly compensate staff providing services.



First Steps

Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants and Toddlers
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